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Hoover Has Quiet 77th Birthday And No Intention to Leave FBI

United Press International

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover marked his 77th birthday yesterday with no celebration or fanfare other than the football games he planned to view on television, and with no intentions to retire in the near future.

Hoover, entering his 48th year as FBI Director, told UPI in response to written questions that he had never considered stepping down. He said his health was excellent.

He told Nation's Business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce magazine, that he does not consider his age "a valid factor in assessing my ability to contine as director of the FBI . . . any more than it was when I was appointed to that position."

Hoover was named director of the Bureau of Investigation, the FBI predecessor agency, on May 10, 1924, under President Calvin Coolidge. He had served under eight Presidents.

There have been scattered reports that Hoover might step down or be asked to leave in 1972 because of his age. He himself has firmly put to rest any thought he would ever voluntarily quit, except for serious health reasons.